

EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT

Routing Slip

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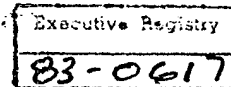

 Executive Secretary

1/31/83

Date



THE SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20590



IAN 28 1983

The Honorable William J. Casey
Director
Central Intelligence Agency
Washington, DC 20505

Dear Bill:

At a White House Ceremony last April, President Reagan announced a national program to combat drunk driving and inform all motorists of the value of safety belts. Unfortunately, only 10 percent of the people in our country make use of this safety feature. At least 50 percent of the deaths and 65 percent of the serious injuries would be eliminated with the universal use of this personal safety equipment.

Each year many lives could be saved, thousands of injuries could be prevented or their severity substantially reduced, and more than 50 million dollars in compensation costs could be avoided if all Federal employees would wear safety belts during official travel.

If we can convince our employees to use safety belts while traveling in government vehicles or in private vehicles being used on official business, we will help them to develop a habit which may carry over to off-the-job driving. Not only would we be preventing much sorrow and grief for our employees, but scarce Federal dollars could be saved and channeled into productive programs.

We can and should set the example for the private sector and demonstrate that the Federal Government firmly believes in the program it is endorsing. The Departments of Transportation and Labor have joined forces in this activity. The Occupational Safety and Health Administration will have ready for distribution in February jointly-developed materials which will assist in developing and conducting a safety belt program for your agency. GSA has recently reissued a bulletin to heads of Federal agencies emphasizing management's responsibility to ensure the use of safety belts when Federal employees are riding in passenger vehicles on official business. Similar efforts are being encouraged in the private sector. Private employers, trade associations, medical professionals, law enforcement officers, and many other groups will be assisting. Several private employers, for example, have more than doubled safety belt use among their employees by the use of combined educational and incentive programs.



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Your help is needed. We ask for your personal leadership in formulating a program for your agency which assures that an effective safety belt use policy is issued and that your employees are informed of the value of safety belts and the risks of being in an accident. Mr. Thorne G. Auchter, Assistant Secretary for Occupational Safety and Health, will shortly be inviting your Designated Agency Safety and Health Official and your agency's safety and health manager to attend a meeting where materials for the program will be explained and an overview of the national safety belt program will be discussed.

Sincerely,



Secretary of Labor



Secretary of Transportation